

Congress Extends Security Benefits

THOUSANDS of reservists serving in the Armed Forces during and since World War II, whether or not they are still on duty, are eligible for benefits afforded by the 1950 and 1952 amendments to the Social Security Act.

The first amendment applies to those persons who served on active duty in the Armed Forces for at least 90 days between specified dates in 1940 and 1947 and were not dishonorably discharged. It applies whether the veteran is now alive or dead, and whether he died in service or after discharge.

For each calendar month, or part of a month, that the serviceman served on active military duty between 16 Sept 40 and 24 July 47, he has been given a wage credit of \$160, regardless of rank. Maximum wage credits for the entire period totals \$13,280.

Public Law 590, enacted by the 82nd Congress, grants personnel who went on duty since the start of the Korean war a credit for Social Security purposes amounting to \$160 for each month of service performed on or after 25 July 1947 and prior to 1 January 1954.

The amount of retirement or survivors benefit that may accrue to a reservist under the Social Security Program depends on the date of his death and his total wage credits. Old-age and survivors' benefits are not automatic. The serviceman or his family must file application for them. The law also permits retroactive payments of only 6 months at most. Hence, prompt action at age 65 by the veteran, or in the event of death, by his survivors, is imperative.

Long protection periods Many servicemen are fully insured to 1 January 1966, having served the full time in the Armed Forces provided for in the Veterans' amendment. These and other features of the subject are outlined in AF Pamphlet 34-1-16, which may be examined at any AF base or the nearest Army and AF Recruiting Station. For further information consult local Social Security offices.

These special credits do not apply if the veteran's military service in World War II leads to other Federal retirement benefits. Wage credits are not affected by any compensation or pension paid to individuals by the Veterans Administration.